

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original): A stain removing chewing gum composition comprising a gum base and a stain removing complex of a stain removing agent and a cyclodextrin compound wherein said stain removing agent is present in a manner which enables an effective amount of the stain removing agent to be released from the chewing gum composition to achieve a stain removing effect on dental surfaces.

Claim 2 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the cyclodextrin compound is selected from the group consisting of α -cyclodextrin, β , and γ -cyclodextrin, derivatives thereof and combinations thereof.

Claim 3 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 2 wherein the cyclodextrin compound is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl β -cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl β -cyclodextrin, hydroxypropyl β -cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl β -cyclodextrin, methyl β -cyclodextrin and combinations thereof.

Claim 4 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of the stain removing agent to the cyclodextrin compound is from about 1:0.1 to 1:10.

Claim 5 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 4 wherein the molar ratio of the stain removing agent to the cyclodextrin compound is from about 1:0.5 to 1:5.

Claim 6 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 5 wherein the molar ratio of the stain removing agent to the cyclodextrin compound is about 1:1.

Claim 7 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing complex is present in an amount of from about 0.001% to 20% by weight based on the total weight of the chewing gum composition.

Claim 8 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 7 wherein the stain removing complex is present in an amount of from about 0.1% to 15% by weight based on the total weight of the chewing gum composition.

Claim 9 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the amount of the cyclodextrin compound is sufficient to complex with the effective amount of the stain removing agent.

Claim 10 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is present in an amount of from about 0.01% to 20% by weight based on the total weight of the chewing gum composition.

Claim 11 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 10 wherein the stain removing agent is present in an amount of from about 0.1% to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the chewing gum composition.

Claim 12 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is selected from the group consisting of medium and long chain fatty acids, organic acids, organic peroxides, perbenzoic acids, anti-bacterial organic compounds, castor oil, sulfated butyl oleate, medium and long chain fatty acid esters, ricinoleic acid and salts thereof, sodium oleate, salts of fumaric acid, potassium glomate, organic acid esters of mono and diglycerides, succistearin, dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate, glycerol tristearate, lecithin, hydroxylated lecithin, sodium lauryl sulfate, acetylated monoglycerides, succinylated monoglycerides, monoglyceride citrate, ethoxylated mono- and di-glycerides, sorbitan monostearate, calcium stearyl-2-lactylate, sodium stearyl lactylate, lactylated fatty acid esters of glycerol and propylene glycerol, glycerol-lactoesters of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids, propylene glycol alginate, sucrose C₈-C₂₄ fatty acid esters, diacetyl tartaric or citric or lactic acid esters of mono- and di-glycerides, and triacetin and combinations thereof.

Claim 13 (withdrawn).

Claim 14 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium

stearate and sodium palmitate and combinations thereof, sodium oleate, mixtures of citric acid or lactic acid esters of monoglycerides and diglycerides, glycerol stearate, glycerol laurate and combinations thereof, sucrose monostearate, sucrose distearate, sucrose monolaurate, sucrose dilaurate, polyglycerol esters of monostearate, and polyglycerol esters of monolaurate and combinations thereof.

Claim 15 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is selected from sodium stearate, sodium palmitate and combinations thereof.

Claim 16 (withdrawn).

Claim 17 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the chewing gum composition is in the form of a slab or stick.

Claim 18 (original): A stain removing chewing gum composition comprising a gum base core and an optional coating having at least one layer, at least one of said core and coating comprising a stain removing complex of a stain removing agent and a cyclodextrin compound, wherein said stain removing agent is present in a manner which enables an effective amount of the stain removing agent to be released from the chewing gum composition.

Claim 19 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 18 wherein the chewing gum composition is a centerfill chewing gum composition having a centerfill and a gum portion, said stain removing complex being present in the centerfill, the gum portion or both.

Claim 20 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 18 in the form of a coated chewing gum composition wherein the stain removing complex is present in the coating, the core or both the coating and the core.

Claim 21 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 20 wherein the stain removing complex is present in the coating.

Claim 22 (original): A method of removing stains from teeth comprising administering to the oral cavity of a warm-blooded animal including humans an effective amount of the stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1.

Claim 23 (original): A method of producing the stain-removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 comprising adding the stain removing complex in one of the last steps of forming the chewing gum composition to enable the stain removing complex to be loosely contained with the chewing gum composition whereby the stain removing complex is effectively released upon chewing.

Claims 24-40 (withdrawn)

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Claim 41 (new): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing complex is added to the chewing gum composition in a dry state.

Claim 42 (new): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing complex comprises the stain removing agent within a cavity of the cyclodextrin compound.

Claim 43 (new): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is selected from anionic and non-ionic surfactants.